

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /080 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8098

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 12727

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, SZ

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SWISS FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SWISS FOREIGN MINISTER PIERRE GRABER MADE AN OFFICIAL
VISIT TO ATHENS NOVEMBER 24-27. APPARENTLY, THE ONLY CONCRETE
RESULT OF HIS TRIP WAS AN INVITATION TO PRIME MINISTER
CARAMANLIS TO VISIT SWITZERLAND SOMETIME NEXT YEAR.
CARAMANLIS HAS ACCEPTED. GRABER ALSO CALLED ON PRESIDENT
TSATSOS AND HELD PRIVATE TALKS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS.

2. ACCORDING TO PAUL APOSTOLIDIS OF THE MFA'S WEST EUROPEAN-
AMERICAN AFFAIRS OFFICE, GRABER PROPOSED SOME FORM OF BILATERAL
AGREEMENT TO PROMOTE TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT
BITSIOS' INITIAL REACTION WAS ONE OF CAUTION UNTIL THE
POTENTIAL AFFECT ON GREECE'S ENTRY INTO THE EC CAN BE ASSESSED.
APOSTOLIDIS BELIEVES THE PROPOSAL, AS WELL AS GRABER'S VISIT
AND THE INVITATION TO CARAMANLIS, RARE FOR SWITZERLAND,
MAY STEM FROM A SENSE OF ISOLATION ON THE PART OF THE GOS
AS THE EC DEVELOPS STRONGER TIES WHICH TEND TO EXCLUDE
NON-MEMBERS.

3. APOSTOLIDIS SAID THAT GRABER HAD BEEN POLITELY
CONCOMMITAL IN RESPONSE TO BRIEFINGS ON THE AEGEAN AND
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CYPRUS PROBLEMS.

4. THERE WAS NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND GRABER MADE NO
DEPARTURE STATEMENT. PRESS INTEREST IN HIS VISIT WAS
RELATIVELY LIGHT, BUT POSITIVE, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE FACT THAT
OFFICIAL INVITATIONS FROM THE GOS ARE EXTREMELY RARE.

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